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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

HUMAN WELFARE WORK IN CHICAGO. By *Harvey C. Carbaugh*. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1917. Pp. 262 Illustrated, 12 mo., \$1.50.

A current narrative of the educational, recreational, and philanthropic resources of Chicago. Col. Carbaugh, Judge Advocate of the U. S. Army, retired, and now secretary of the Civil Service Board of the South Park Commissioners, is editor rather than author.

Chapters compiled by him describe the work of the Art Institute, charitable and religious work, as well as neighborhood and settlement centers. Other chapters, written by experts in each field, give an account of Chicago's Public School System, the Public Library; its famous Park Systems, Musical Facilities, Public Recreational Equipment, etc., etc.

This volume, containing a great deal of information more or less familiar to the average Chicago resident, will be of real service as a compendium of knowledge to the stranger and the newcomer.

To the reader who is acquainted with the field covered, the sense of proportion in the book might well have been better. In some articles, unimportant details are given at length, while such a popular organization as the Chicago Band, for instance, is passed over with a few lines. Again, in a description of Lincoln Park, certain pieces of statuary are described, while others are omitted. The same inconsistency is observed in an otherwise valuable index list of charitable organizations. One is listed which has been out of existence for at least two years, while such well known institutions as the Parting of the Ways Home, The Central Howard Association, and the Chicago Boy's Club have been overlooked.

On the whole, however, a comprehensive idea is obtained of the diversified and extensive "Human Welfare Work" being carried on throughout the year.

The necessarily brief stories of these activities invite further study of such great preventive movements as the Juvenile Court, the Y. M. C. A., Social Settlements, Religious and Relief Agencies.

The volume is liberally illustrated and furnishes a ready reference.

F. EMORY LYON.

REPORT OF THE MINNESOTA CHILD WELFARE COMMISSION, MINNESOTA, 1917. By *William W. Hobson, et. al.* St. Paul; Office of the Commission. Room 27, State Capitol.

This report is the work of a Commission appointed by the Governor in August, 1916, to revise and codify the laws of the State relating to children. The Commission was composed of the following people: Otto W. Davis, Minneapolis; Mrs. Robbins Gilman, Minneapolis; Mr. Galen A. Merrill, Owatonna; Judge Thomas O. O'Brien, St. Paul; Judge Grier B. Orr, St. Paul; Miss Agnes L. Peterson, St. Paul; Rabbi Issaac L. Rypans, St. Paul; John B. Sanborn, St. Paul; Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Minneapolis; Charles E. Vasely, St. Paul; Judge

Edward F. Waite, Minneapolis, and Senator Albert L. Ward, Fairmont. Of this Commission, Edward F. Waite was elected Chairman, and Otto W. Davis, Secretary. The Commission appointed appropriate sub-committees and secured William W. Hobson as Executive Secretary. The work of the Commission was confined to five months. Because of the shortness of the time the Commission decided that it would be impossible to cover the entire body of laws relating to children and therefore it selected certain matters for attention which seemed to be of greatest importance.

The Report is made up of two parts, the Report itself consisting of fourteen pages and the remainder of the Report of 121 pages, consisting of forty-three bills to be presented to the Legislature. The Commission endeavored to take the laws in existence and by such amendments as they thought necessary, bring the laws relating to child welfare into a fairly unified whole. The bills that were prepared relate to five different classes of children—the defective, the illegitimate, the dependent, and neglected, and the delinquent.

Proceeding upon the fundamental idea that the State is the ultimate guardian of all children who need what they cannot provide for themselves, and what natural or legal guardians are not providing, the Commission recommended such change in the laws as would centralize responsibility for these children in the State Board of Control, and make it the duty of that Board to care for the needs of such children. The bill also provided for the organization of county child welfare boards to assist the State Board of Control in carrying out its plans. In the interest of this unification of control, one of the bills offered provided for the transfer of the management of the State Public School and the State School for the Deaf and the Blind to the State Board of Control. In the provisions for the care of defectives, the committee framed a bill for the compulsory commitment of girls and women of child-bearing age to the Board of Control for proper treatment or detention; classed as defectives are the feeble-minded, inebriates, and the insane. The bill providing for the examination of these defectives, especially the feeble-minded, states that the Board of Control may provide a person skilled in mental diagnosis to assist in the examination. The responsibility is put upon the Board for the proper care of these classes of defectives so as to secure the public welfare.

In the case of illegitimate children, the attempt is made in the bill offered by the Commission to give the illegitimate child as nearly as possible the care that a child born in wedlock receives by the simple expedient of making desertion of child or wife a felony. The bill provides for easy extradition of the man who is proved to be the father of the illegitimate child. By another bill the Commission makes a single illicit act a misdemeanor and provides that where fornication is followed by birth of issue and the absconding of the father even before birth, the offense is a felony and is extraditable. Provisions are made for safeguarding the records concerning illegitimate children.

In the case of dependent and neglected children the Commission revised the Juvenile Court Law by distinguishing between dependent

and neglected children in such a way that a child may be adjudged dependent without reflection upon a worthy parent. Another bill provides for efficient supervision over maternity hospitals, homes for children, and placing-out agencies. Still another bill was offered revising the procedure whereby a child is adopted. Under the bill offered the child must be six months actually in the care of those who desire to adopt it before the final decree may issue. It also provides for permanent annulment of a decree of adoption within five years when feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, insanity, or venereal infection develops by reason of conditions existing prior to the adoption and unknown to the adopting parents. The laws concerning desertion and non-support were changed so that the age of the child to be protected was raised enough to cover the period of compulsory school attendance. They were also made to apply to divorced fathers who had not been relieved by the court of the obligation to support their families.

The old Mothers' Pension Law, which was a system of county aid to mothers, the Commission rewrote so as to more fully enable the State and the counties to co-operate with worthy mothers in rearing future citizens. The amount which may be given was raised from \$10 to \$15 per month for one child and not exceeding \$10 for each additional child. The county boards of child welfare, which the Commission proposes, are to advise with the court concerning the granting of mothers' pensions. The Board of Control is given the responsibility of promoting efficiency and uniformity by advising and co-operating with courts and supervising and directing the county boards of child welfare with respect to methods of investigation, oversight of children, and record keeping, devising and distributing blank forms, visiting and inspecting families to whom pensions have been allowed, and in requiring such reports from clerks of courts, county boards of child welfare, and probate officers, as it deems necessary.

The Commission also made suggestions for change in the Juvenile Court Law. The purpose of the changes was to provide uniform procedure so far as practicable and to co-ordinate the Juvenile Court work with the care of other children by the State Board of Control. The Board of Control, according to the suggestions of the Commission, was to have the privilege of holding conferences with officials responsible for the enforcement of the various child welfare laws to promote economy and efficiency in the enforcement of these laws.

In short, the recommendations of the Commission and the bills submitted by them to carry out the recommendations had in view the unifying of the laws concerning children and co-ordinating them in a constructive scheme of State guidance and control. The other salient features of the report are:

1. An effort to centralize the administration of these laws in the State Board of Control.
2. The establishment of county boards of child welfare to provide such watchful care and interest in children in the county as would assist the State Board in making the administration effective.

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J. L. GILLIN.